

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action dated November 16, 2007. Claims 1-7 and 9-16 are canceled such that claims 8 and 17-20 are now pending in this application.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have canceled claims 1-7 such that the rejection is moot.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have canceled claims 1-7 such that the rejection is moot.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Ellis (U.S. Patent No. 4,629,568). Applicants have canceled claims 1, 4, 5 and 16 such that the rejection is moot.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 3, 9, 10 and 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis (U.S. Patent No. 4,629,568) in view of Gramms et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,512,167). Applicants have canceled claims 3, 9, 10 and 12-15 such that the rejection is moot.

Claims 2, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis (U.S. Patent No. 4,629,568) in view of Hart (U.S. Patent No. 6,110,360). Applicants have canceled claims 2, 6 and 7 such that the rejection is moot.

Claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis (U.S. Patent No. 4,629,568) in view of Gramms et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,512,167), as applied to

claims 8-10 above, and further in view of Hart (U.S. Patent No. 6,110,360). Applicants have canceled claims 11 and 13 such that the rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 17-20 were allowed.

Reservation of Rights

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicants may not have equally addressed every assertion made in the Office Action, however, this does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicants reserve all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicants do not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicants timely object to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserve all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicants reserve all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at (612) 373-6977 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date Feb. 19, 2008

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 19 day of February 2008.

Name

Signature